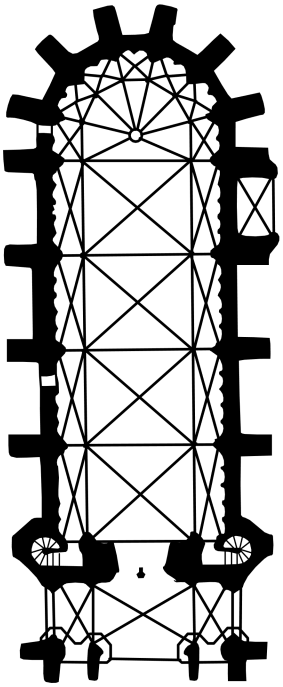
Sainte-Chapelle, Paris

- completed in 1248 by Louis IX to house the Crown of Thorns and other relics purchased during the Crusades

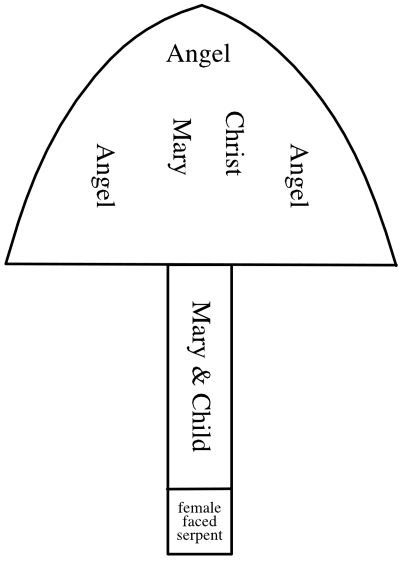
Lower Floor, Floor Plan

- lower chapel used by servants and commoners
- the ceiling decoration is not original & there's no record of what they originally looked like, the decoration was the choice of restorers
- ribs underlined with red stripes with golden 'L's (for Louis)
- vaults have Fleur de Lys



Lower chapel entrance sculpture

under a porch (by ticket gate)

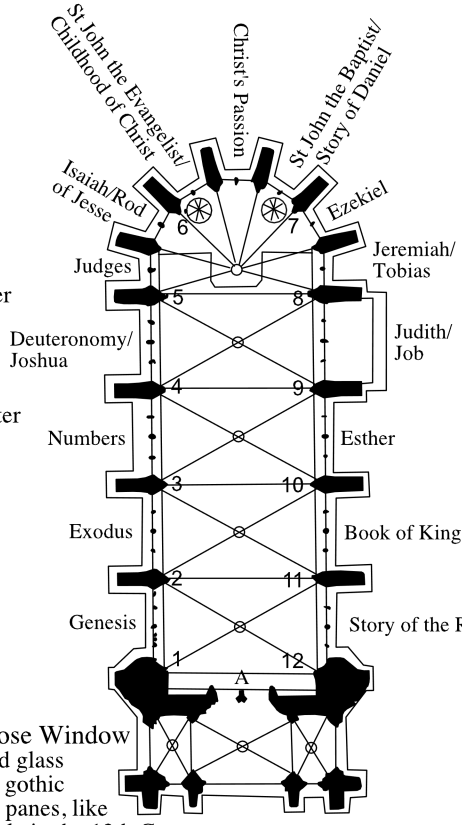


Upper Floor, Floor Plan

- upper chapel was used by royal family
- vaults have gold painted stars on them
- some apostle statues between the windows are impossible to identify due to damage and restoration work
- medallions with paintings of martyrs in the arches, angels between the arches
- lancet windows are 15.4 m high, 4.25m wide
- most of the windows date from the 13th C
- windows are composed of 1113 pieces of glass
- 4 lancets topped with 3 roses in nave, 2 lancets in choir
- Esther window is over a recess for Blanche of Castile, who acted as regent for her son Louis IX & 'saved' France (like Esther)

Apostle statues

1 St John
2 unidentified
3 unidentified
4 St James the Lesser
5 unidentified
6 St Peter
7 St Paul
8 unidentified
9 St James the Greater
10 unidentified
11 St Bartholomew
12 unidentified

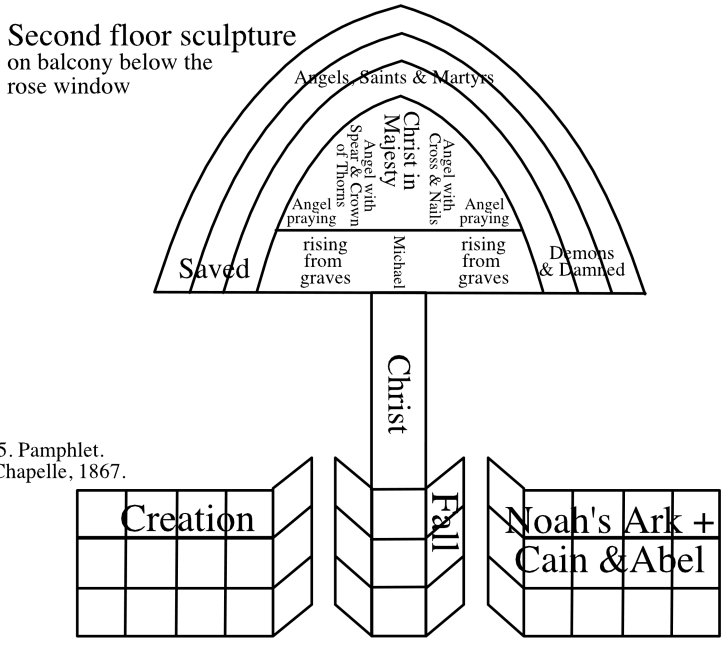


A - Apocalypse Rose Window

- 86 panels of stained glass
- 16th C flamboyant gothic
- some colours in its panes, like green, weren't possible in the 13th C

Second floor sculpture

on balcony below the rose window



Jessica Strider, 2015 & 2022

Sources:
Palais de la Cite: Sainte-Chapelle. Centre des Monuments Nationaux. 2015. Pamphlet.
Guilhermy, Ferdinand. Description de la Sainte-Chapelle, Paris, la Sainte-Chapelle, 1867.
DK Eyewitness Paris, DK Eyewitness Travel, 2015
architecture.relig.free.fr/chapelle_en.htm

Other Resources:
For a 360 tour of the upper chapel:
www.monuments-nationaux.fr/static/visites/sainte-chapelle/index.html
For photographs of individual stained glass images:
www.therosewindow.com/pilot/StChapelle/table.htm